

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 4. (cancelled)

5. (new) A device for stacking flat, flexible postal items in a stacking compartment in an upright position, comprising:

a stacking roller positionable in proximity of the stacking compartment;

a covered belt system configured to feed the postal items consecutively to the stacking roller, wherein the belt system has a first belt and a second belt;

a deflection roller arranged on an axis and configured to deflect the first belt from the second belt so that the second belt continuous to transport a postal item to the stacking roller;

a first profile roller arranged on the deflection roller and having a predetermined roller length, wherein the first profile roller includes a number of diameter taperings over its roller length; and

deflectable pressure means arranged to press the postal items into the diameter taperings of the first profile roller to reduce a free flexible lengths of a postal items.

6. (new) The device of claim 5, wherein the taperings of the first profile roller are distributed over the roller length so that upper edges of the postal items of a permitted item format do not protrude beyond a defined maximum dimension so that an opening of a postal item is avoided above a highest tapering covered by the postal item.

7. (new) The device of claim 5, wherein the pressure means include deflectable pressure rollers, which can be pressed with spring pressure against the taperings of the first profile roller, and wherein the pressure rollers have smaller diameters than the taperings of the first profile roller.

8. (new) The device of claim 5, wherein the pressure means include a second profile roller having a profile that corresponds to a profile of the first profile roller, wherein the second profile roller is arranged such that its diameter taperings of are located at heights of untapered sections of the first profile roller.

9. (new) The device of claim 5, wherein a pressure force of the pressure means is selected to avoid damaging stiff postal items by deforming them.